

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2004.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 15 are amended. No claims are canceled or added. As a result, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

Applicant has amended claims 6 and 7 to correct the dependency of these claims, which are now properly dependent upon claim 5. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this basis of rejection of these claims.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,551). As an initial note, Applicant reserves the right to swear behind Schneider et al. at a later date, as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, and 15 to overcome this basis of rejection and to clarify certain aspects of these claims. Applicant submits that support for such amendments is found at paragraph 22 and elsewhere within the present patent application.

Applicant cannot find in Schneider et al. any disclosure, teaching, or suggestion of receiving at an image processor, from a first receiving station, state parameters that keep track of the effect of image processing, and transmitting the state parameters to the second receiving station to synchronize image display by the second receiving station to be consistent with image display by the first receiving station, as similarly presently recited or incorporated in claims 1-7 and 9-17. This is particularly useful, for example, in collaboration between physicians using different receiving stations to concurrently view medical imaging data. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection of these claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,551) in view of Stoltz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,250). As an initial note, Applicant reserves the right to swear behind Stoltz et al. at a later date, as provided under

37 C.F.R. § 1.131. However, in view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness presently exists with respect to claim 8 because all elements recited or incorporated in claim 8 (e.g., by its dependence on claim 1) are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Schneider et al. and/or Stoltz et al., for the reasons discussed above with respect to the §102(e) rejection using Schneider et al. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has cited no basis in these references that would provide any motivation to combine Schneider et al. and Stoltz et al. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Stoltz et al. merely pertains to user authentication and access control; it fails to disclose, teach, or suggest authorizing a particular receiving station to alter and transmit a local copy of state parameters. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection of claim 8.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6951 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

HUI HU ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date March 17, 2005

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17th day of March, 2005.

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